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Tucson, AZ 85746
October 11, 2015

AZ CORP COMMISSION

Power Plant and Transmission Line Siting Committee
Arizona Corporation Commission
1200 W. Washington Street
Phoenix, AZ 85007

Re: SunZia Transmission Line Project.
Docket Number: L-00000YY-15-0318-00171

Dear members of the committee,

We oppose putting the SunZia transmission lines along the San Pedro River Valley. Placing the lines in the roadless area west of the San Pedro River severely fragments a wild area. The transmission lines and associated service roads will badly damage wildlife linkages between the sky islands crucial to southeastern Arizona environmental quality. The project will create a band of disturbed soil that could easily lead to a buffelgrass invasion that would be difficult to impossible to manage. Buffelgrass can flourish in disturbed areas near roads. Note the buffelgrass along I-10 between Tucson and the state route 83 turnoff. Buffelgrass and its associated fire risk is but one example of the many possible unintended consequences of the construction. Not only would the environmental damage be severe, but it is unnecessary because the proposed Southline Project will accomplish all that SunZia would in Arizona with far fewer environmental impacts and greater benefits.

The San Pedro River Valley is a gem of great value to Southern Arizona. As you consider the line siting and its adverse environmental consequences, please also consider the possibility that the project is not sound economically.

Sincerely,

Tom Orum and Nancy Ferguson
520-573-1679
torum@email.arizona.edu

Arizona Corporation Commission

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